



**Michigan
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Association**

An Affiliate of National Nurses United

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Testimony on HB 5958

From Debra Nault, RN, MSN, CNM
Director of Nursing Practice and Education, Michigan Nurses Association

Dec. 4, 2014

Dear esteemed members of the House Judiciary Committee:

As a registered nurse for more than 35 years, a clinical nursing instructor at Michigan State University and current Director of Nursing Practice and Education at the state's largest organization representing RNs, I am writing to you in **opposition to HB 5958**.

Nurses are committed to making sure that every individual has access to safe quality care. There are no exceptions to that principle – regardless of a person's religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status or any other aspect of their identity. *Patient care should be provided based on what the patient needs, not the healthcare provider's personal beliefs.*

Religious freedom deserves the highest level of protections, and our current laws and Constitution provide that.

As such, I am greatly concerned that HB 5958 will serve only to give individuals and employers in the healthcare field a license to discriminate based on their own personal and or religious beliefs.

Giving healthcare professionals a license to discriminate could have harmful, even deadly consequences. This is no exaggeration. Whether it is a pharmacist refusing to dispense a prescribed medication, a hospital ordering doctors not to provide certain care, or refusing to treat the victim of a car crash in the ER, this bill **puts patients' lives at stake**.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge you to reject this bill.

Sincerely,

Debra Nault, RN, MSN, CNM
Director of Nursing Practice and Education
Michigan Nurses Association